# RM(1) User Commands

NAME

rm - remove files or directories

SYNOPSIS

rm [OPTION]... [FILE]...

DESCRIPTION

This manual page documents the GNU version of rm. rm removes each

specified file. By default, it does not remove directories.

If the -I or --interactive=once option is given, and there are more

than three files or the -r, -R, or --recursive are given, then rm

prompts the user for whether to proceed with the entire operation. If

the response is not affirmative, the entire command is aborted.

Otherwise, if a file is unwritable, standard input is a terminal, and

the -f or --force option is not given, or the -i or --interac‐

tive=always option is given, rm prompts the user for whether to remove

the file. If the response is not affirmative, the file is skipped.

OPTIONS

Remove (unlink) the FILE(s).

-f, --force

ignore nonexistent files and arguments, never prompt

-i prompt before every removal

-I prompt once before removing more than three files, or when

removing recursively; less intrusive than -i, while still giving

protection against most mistakes

--interactive[=WHEN]

prompt according to WHEN: never, once (-I), or always (-i);

without WHEN, prompt always

--one-file-system

when removing a hierarchy recursively, skip any directory that

is on a file system different from that of the corresponding

command line argument

--no-preserve-root

do not treat '/' specially

--preserve-root

do not remove '/' (default)

-r, -R, --recursive

remove directories and their contents recursively

-d, --dir

remove empty directories

-v, --verbose

explain what is being done

--help display this help and exit

--version

output version information and exit

By default, rm does not remove directories. Use the --recursive (-r or

-R) option to remove each listed directory, too, along with all of its

contents.

To remove a file whose name starts with a '-', for example '-foo', use

one of these commands:

rm -- -foo

rm ./-foo

Note that if you use rm to remove a file, it might be possible to

recover some of its contents, given sufficient expertise and/or time.

For greater assurance that the contents are truly unrecoverable, con‐

sider using shred.

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REPORTING BUGS

GNU coreutils online help: <http://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>

Report rm translation bugs to <http://translationproject.org/team/>

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SEE ALSO

unlink(1), unlink(2), chattr(1), shred(1)

Full documentation at: <http://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/rm>

or available locally via: info '(coreutils) rm invocation'

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